



## Fact Sheet

### MAKING RECYCLING WORK

Waste Management Recycle America's Elkridge Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) provides a range of recycling services to municipal and business customers in the Greater Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area, including Howard, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties. In operation since August of 2006, the facility employs about 75 people in two shifts, and leverages the nationwide resources of Waste Management, Inc., which is the leading provider of recycling services in North America.

The facility's location is particularly important, since its proximity to the Port of Baltimore facilitates the shipment of recycled materials to customers worldwide. In addition, the facility was the first MRF in the Greater Baltimore-Washington, D.C. metro area to use single-stream technology.



*The Elkridge Materials Recovery Facility serves the Greater Baltimore area.*

### STATE-OF-THE-ART CAPABILITIES

Elkridge is a single-stream facility, which means that it has the capability to accept mixed recyclables. That in turn means that recyclable items don't need to be separated by our customers before collection, saving transport and handling costs and making it easier for people to recycle.

WM Recycle America made use of the latest technological advances in developing this facility. It has the capacity to sort, process, and bale up to 65 tons per hour, which, as of February, 2007, represented the fastest recycling production capacity in the world.

#### About single-stream technology

Traditionally, recycling has required the separation of the various recyclable materials before collection. WM Recycle America is the first major publicly traded solid waste company to focus on single-stream recycling. This technology allows customers to place recyclable paper, plastic, glass, steel and aluminum materials into one container for collection. Subsequent single-stream processing uses separation technologies specifically designed for this mixed recyclable stream. This approach makes it easier for people to recycle; containerized residential single-stream collection has been shown to increase recycling rates and recyclable yield per household. In fact, the efficiency and convenience of single-stream recycling often results in the recovery of up to 30% more recyclable materials; in at least one case, the rate climbed to 42%.



*The Elkridge MRF uses a combination of manual and mechanical technologies to separate the mixed recyclables that arrive at the facility in a "single stream."*

## Elkridge Materials Recovery Facility

### Making a big difference

In one year, recycling efforts at Elkridge:

- Avoid the cutting of nearly 2.5 million fir trees
- Save 15.8 million gallons of gasoline
- Save 3.5 billion gallons of water
- Eliminate 12 million pounds of air pollutants
- Save 590 million kilowatts of electricity
- Save 460,000 cubic yards of landfill space





On average, the facility receives and processes about 20,000 tons of recyclables every month. About 70% of this is paper products, and about 30% consists of glass, plastics and metals. The facility's residue rate (amount of non-recyclable materials) is less than 4%.

## HANDLING A BROAD RANGE OF MATERIALS

The Elkridge MRF accepts the following recyclables:

### Paper

- Newspapers (including all inserts)
- Magazines and catalogs
- Junk mail
- Cardboard
- Corrugated boxes
- Computer printouts
- Office paper (including typing, fax, copy, letterhead, NCR) and envelopes
- Brown paper bags (kraft)
- Telephone books

**Glass** containers such as jars and bottles

### Metals

- Steel food and beverage containers
- Aluminum food and beverage containers

**Plastic** – narrow-neck plastic containers (other than for motor oil) carrying plastic resin identification codes ♻️ through ♻️



*We process about 20,000 tons of recyclables per month; many of these are shipped to customers outside the U.S.*



## A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Like other Waste Management facilities across the country, the Elkridge MRF works to build and maintain strong partnerships with the local community. We support a variety of educational outreach programs to promote recycling efforts, and we also provide expert assistance to businesses and communities that want to begin or improve their recycling programs.

We are an active participant in the Maryland Recycling Coalition, the National Recycling Coalition and America Recycles. And, in addition to working to reduce waste and preserve precious natural resources, we also provide a significant economic benefit to the region through wages, taxes, donations and the local purchase of goods and services.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

We're always glad to hear from our customers and neighbors. If you have any questions about our services or our facility, please call us at 443-755-9416.

**Elkridge Materials  
Recovery Facility**  
7175 Kit Kat Road  
Elkridge, MD 21075

### Hours

M-F: 6 am – 5 pm  
Sat: 7 am - 5 pm

### Phone

(443) 755-9416